

Transcription, Remarks upon a Union of Great Britain and America by Joseph Galloway

It will change with the circumstances of America which being a new Country is changing every year, and like a young genius, no one can yet form a judgment what it is, or what will be her interest, in respect to commerce, in half a Century. We must not therefore rely on a commercial connection without a just system of polity to restrain it. For be assured it cannot otherwise be secured by all inventions of human wisdom.

And permit me further [sic] in general to observe that while France, Spain, Portugal, and the other powers in Europe, shall retain their foreign Dominions, and shall hold them secured not only against foreign Invasion, by their Arms but firmly bound by all the political ties of just subordination, arising from the establishment of Principles peculiar to their respective forms of Government, the bad and ruinous policy to Great Britain of giving to her Colonies independence, or any other terms which shall loosen the bands of their subordination to the principle state, and enable them in a little time to become independent, must be too obvious to call for discussion.

But did not this reason subsist in full force. There is another of great weight. The great bulk of the People of America, whose dispositions ought and must, upon every principle of reason and policy, be consulted dread a separation in polity from this country, and are distressed at the prospect of independence. Their wishes accord with what either is or ought to be those of the people of this Country. They desire to be bound to the principal State, by an enjoyment of the same Rights and Privileges, and being governed by the same measure of power, modified in the same manner as their fellow Subjects enjoy, and are governed by Great Britain.

If such are the desires of the great bulk of the People of America, it is certainly the interest of Great Britain to gratify them. Because it is by what gratification alone Great Britain can retain and make them useful Members of her Society.

It is a reasonable gratification because they ask no more than what subsists in every civilized Society in the World save in the British Empire. And that which they ask is the only thing necessary to restore the order and vigor of the British State Virginia to cement and tie the Members act in concert for the common good and safety.

If any knowledge and instruction is to be learnt from the experience of mankind, from the dictates of reason, or from the established maxims and documents all learned authors who have wrote on

Government, this truth will be found, on strict examination, most evident, that the present distraction and convolutions in the British Empire have arisen solely from the system of polity which has been inadvertently adopted in America within the last Centuries. A system in which the principle State or rather its representatives and trustees have given away without authority, those powers which were vested in it for the purposes of its own Sovereignty, have relinquished them to the very Persons [sic] over whom they ought to be exercised, have instituted inferior Societies totally inconsistent with the principles upon which the Principal States if founded with powers never intended, and which never can be safely trusted in the hand of the governed. By this means their attachment of the principal state has been alienated, and their connection with it dissolved. The powers and the Energy of Government are enfeebled and rendered inadequate to the purposes for which they were originally instituted, and the component parts of the most beautiful , if not the most powerful system in the world are separated from their respective orders and so jumbled together as to produce infinite confusion, and to threaten it with utter dissolution.

It is not difficult for a Person who will look into the nature of Government, to perceive that this dissolution will . . .

The congress themselves, tho' [sic] composed of a majority of Men who had the independence of the Colonies in View, did not dare depart from this ground contrary to the general sense of the People until they had disarmed them and established their own Power. They therefore claim in behalf of the People all the "Rights, Liberties, Privileges and Immunities of free and natural born subjects within the Realm of England." They assert their right to "extension and benefit of the Common Law," and of such of the English Statues as existed at the time of their Colonization and were found applicable to their several local and other circumstances." And in a variety of these proceedings, they further declare, that their opposition to Government, "had no other objects than the security of the Civil Rights of the Constituent parts of the Empire and the preservation of a happy and lasting connection with great Britain on salutary and constitutional principles."

In further conformity to this disposition the people at large, and the Men of property, almost universally, to show their detestation of new forms of Government and their desire of a more firm union with Great Britain, have altogether seceded from voting in the Election of their officers, and from accepting of any office of honor, profit, or trust under them. Rather than unite in the rebellious opposition to Government they are with a patience unparalleled, submitting to every species of want, Tyranny and Distress. And as they have not the power, being naked and disarmed to rid themselves of their oppression, they are constantly looking up to the force of Great Britain for relief, and for that protection against the like mischiefs in future, which they are sensible can flow from nothing but a more firm solid and just subordination of the Colonies upon constitutional principles, to the principal State.